

ITEM 15 ON-STREET PARKING FOR CAR SHARE VEHICLES – STATUS OF PROPOSED TRIAL SCHEME AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

FILE NO: S034333

SUMMARY

Council resolved at its Meeting of 21 February 2005 to proceed with the proposed trial to provide 10 on-street parking spaces for car share vehicles. This report outlines the status of the proposed trial scheme and associated guidelines being developed by the Roads and Traffic Authority, together with alternatives used by other Councils.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the status of the guidelines being developed by the Roads and Traffic Authority for on-street parking of Car Share vehicles; and
- (B) Pending the outcome of (A), in the interim:
 - (i) A report be referred to the Sydney Traffic Committee on alternative signposting of on-street parking as “No Parking Council Authorised Vehicles Excepted”;
 - (ii) The City consider allocating up to ten (10) off-street parking spaces in City owned car parks (Goulburn Street and Domain parking stations) subject to suitable leasing agreements; and
 - (iii) The City consult residents and businesses in the vicinity of locations where Car Share parking has been requested in Kings Cross and Glebe.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Council Resolution of 21 February 2005 on the *Proposed Trial of On-street Parking for Car Share Vehicles*.

Attachment B: Minutes of the Sydney Traffic Committee Meeting of 18 May 2005 on *Item 15.1 Car Share*.

BACKGROUND

1. Council resolved on 15 November 2004 to agree in-principle to trial the allocation of up to 10 on-street parking spaces for Car Share vehicles.
2. The Roads and Traffic Authority established a Car Share working group in December 2004 to provide local government input into the development of guidelines for possible Car Share Schemes. The group included representatives from the Roads and Traffic Authority, the inner city councils of the City of Sydney, North Sydney, Marrickville and Leichhardt, the Local Government and Shires Association, and the NSW Police.
3. Council resolved on 21 February 2005 to provide 10 on-street parking spaces for Car Share vehicles.
4. The Sydney Traffic Committee Meeting of 18 May 2005 considered criteria for Car Share Schemes including:
 - (a) Car Club (Car Share) Membership;
 - (b) Vehicle characteristics;
 - (c) On-street parking locations:
 - (i) Guidelines to assess proposed locations;
 - (ii) Preferred Locations; and
 - (iii) Unacceptable Locations (eg Sydney CBD, Bus Zones etc).
5. In August 2005 the Roads and Traffic Authority issued a draft Discussion Paper to the Car Share working group for comment before finalising the document and then seeking comments from the general public.
6. The Car Share working group met on 16 September 2005 to comment on the discussion paper and the next steps in the process.
7. The Roads and Traffic Authority considered the views from the inner city Councils involved in the working group and sought the sign-off of the Minister for Roads. Following changes to Ministerial portfolios a decision has not yet been made by the new Minister for Roads.
8. If approved by the Minister, the discussion paper will be placed for comment on the Roads and Traffic Authority's website. Copies will also be sent for comment by local councils, the Local Government and Shires Association and Police.
9. The Roads and Traffic Authority has advised that once the Minister has agreed to the preferred course of action, guidelines will be issued to Councils for comment. Following public comment, the guidelines would be revised and then issued to Councils.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

10. Providing on-street car parking spaces for Car Share vehicles is appropriate in the congested inner city environment and has potential to reduce car dependency and the adverse impact on the environment from high car ownership and use.
11. Car Share schemes are a commercial operation and Council will need to consider the policy implications of allocating public space for exclusive commercial use.
12. The City is aware of at least three (3) different car share companies and Council will need to ensure the proposed Car Share scheme is consistent with national competition legislation.
13. Council needs to ensure that any on-street parking allocation from Car Share vehicles is consistent with traffic laws and also the requirements stipulated by the Roads and Traffic Authority.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

14. Road Transport (Traffic Safety and Management) (Road Rules) Regulation 1999;
15. Australian Road Rules;
16. Roads Act 1993; and
17. Transport Administration Act 1989.

OPTIONS

18. The following options have been implemented by other Councils pending finalisation of the Roads and Traffic Authority's Guidelines:
 - (a) North Sydney Council, Car Share Permit in resident parking permit area. *Comment* - Resident parking permits can only be issued to a local resident of the relevant scheme area. However, North Sydney's Policy allows commercial companies, not-for-profit organisations and neighbourhood or community groups to set-up Car Share Groups. None of these groups is eligible for a parking permit because they aren't residents of the permit scheme area;
 - (b) Waverley Council, "No Parking, Council Authorised Vehicles Excepted". *Comment* – Councils are able to allocate *Preferential Parking Zones* in accordance with Roads and Traffic Authority guidelines. Car Share vehicles aren't eligible for these zones because commercial businesses are expected to arrange their own off-street parking. The guidelines limit these zones to use by such groups as emergency services (Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance etc). Notwithstanding this, the City could ask the Sydney Traffic Committee to agree to the same arrangements as introduced by Waverley Council; and
 - (c) Marrickville Council, Car Share vehicles use unrestricted on-street parking space. *Comment* - On-street parking is in high demand in areas such as Kings Cross and this alternative doesn't align with Car Share operators need for an easy to find dedicated on-street parking space.

19. The following options are being considered as part of the Roads and Traffic Authority's initial draft consultation:
 - (a) Option A - Restrict car sharing to off-street locations;
 - (b) Option B - Change the road rules legislation to introduce "Car share" permits for use in resident permit parking areas; and
 - (c) Option C - Exempt Car share vehicles under the Roads and Traffic Authority's "*Preferential Parking Zones*" Policy.
20. Option A doesn't align with Council's intention to allow car share vehicles to park on-street. In the interim, the City could consider allocating ten (10) car parking spaces within the Council owned car parks (Goulburn Street and Domain), subject to suitable leasing agreements with operators.
21. Option B doesn't align with Car Share operators need for an easy to find dedicated on-street parking space and can only be provided in conjunction with time limited parking for the general public (eg 1-hour parking). This option would also need a change in traffic legislation which could take a substantial amount of time.
22. Option C provides dedicated on-street parking for Car Share vehicles. Parking for Car Share vehicles would be signposted as "No Parking Car Share Vehicles Excepted" or similar wording. Councils would need to signpost each location for a certain "zone" which is allocated to a particular car share organisation or club. The car share vehicle parked in that zone would display a council authorisation allowing it to park there.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

23. Details of the proposal outlined in the Council Resolution and the Report to the Planning Development and Transport Committee (dated 8 November 2004) were placed on public exhibition between 29 November and 24 December 2004.
24. Residents in streets where on-street parking for Car Share vehicles is proposed are to be consulted before a decision is made on whether to proceed with an individual Car Share on-street parking allocation.

CATHERINE HEART

Director Strategic Planning and Project Development

(Richard Campbell, Manager Transport Management)